



# Pathfinder Pathways...

A Publication of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference Pathfinders

October 2004



## The Seven Wonders

-- Author Unknown --

A group of students was asked to list what they thought were the present Seven Wonders of the World. Though there was some disagreement, the following got the most votes:

1. Egypt's Great Pyramids
2. Taj Mahal
3. Grand Canyon
4. Panama Canal
5. Empire State Building
6. Washington Monument
7. China's Great Wall

While gathering the votes, the teacher noted that one quiet student hadn't turned in her paper yet, so she asked the girl if she was having trouble with her list.

The girl replied, "Yes, a little. I couldn't quite make up my mind because there were so many."

The teacher said, "Well, tell us what you have, and maybe we can help."

The girl hesitated, then read, "I think the Seven Wonders of the World are:

1. To see
2. To taste
3. To touch
4. To hear

She hesitated a little, and then added,

5. To feel
6. To laugh
7. And to love

The room was so full of silence you could have heard a pin drop. Those things we overlook as simple and "ordinary" are truly wondrous.

This is a gentle reminder that the most precious things in life cannot be bought.

## Outreach Activity Ideas

Mow an elderly neighbor's lawn and do a final clean up before winter.



## Honor Toolbox

### American Pioneers

"A Gateway to a New World"

This year's theme is "American Pioneers". There are a number of honors that support this theme. Plan to teach several of them to your Pathfinders. Below is a list that Ann Petry and Jodie Amos put together and gave out at the leadership convention. In case you weren't able to be there we've reprinted it here.

#### Antiques:

Bookbinding

[Masonry](#)

#### Arts & Crafts:

[Basketry](#)

[Leather craft](#)

[Block Printing](#)

[Metal Craft](#)

[Candle Making](#)

[Needlecraft](#)

[Crocheting](#)

[Pottery](#)

[Glass Craft](#)

[Soap Craft](#)

[Knitting](#)

[Weaving](#)

[Lapidary](#)

[Woodcarving](#)

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Preserving & Canning

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#### Nature:

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#### Recreation:

[Campcraft](#)

[Canoeing](#)

[Fire Building & Camp Cookery](#)

[Knot Tying](#)

Pioneering

[Wilderness Living](#)

#### Conference Honor

[Paper Quilling](#)

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*You can do what you have to do,  
and sometimes you can do it even  
better than you think you can.*

- Jimmy Carter



## Hike of the Month

*'The journey is the destination'*

### Rock Town, Lafayette, GA

From Lafayette take Ga. 193 west to Chamberlain Rd. Turn left on Chamberlain to the Pigeon Mountain sign. Turn right on a dirt road. Stop at the game station. There are normally maps in the front cubbyholes. Continue on the dirt road up Pigeon Mountain. Turn left on Rocktown Road.

This trail follows the ridgeline to the tallest spot on Pigeon Mountain. Toward the end of the trail is a "rocktown," rocks of unusual shapes and sizes.

Pigeon Mountain forms the right side of a "Y," jutting off Lookout Mountain just north of the [Chattooga-Walker](#) County line and ending about 3 miles west of Lafayette, Georgia. In between the two mountains is McLemore Cove, and almost all of Pigeon Mountain is within the Crockford-Pigeon Mountain Wildlife Management Area. Half an hour south of the bustling city of Chattanooga, Pigeon Mountain offers a wide variety of outdoor fun including fishing, camping, and many multi-use trails. Rocktown, however, is designated strictly as a hiking trail.

The trail to Rocktown has little change in elevation. This wide footpath is great for groups. Initially the trail is nondescript, but within half a mile the first of a series of large boulders can be seen. There is dense vegetation along the entire trail including numerous berries. Among the berry bushes we could identify were blackberry, wild raspberry and huckleberry

At the end of the trail are a strange series of boulders and outcroppings that have been given the name Rock Town by those who pass through it. It is well named, for it indeed looks like a town.

In downtown Rock Town you can visit the Champaign Glass, where water has eroded the base of a 50-foot tall rock, leaving the cap precariously balanced on what little remains.

Once in Rock Town the trail ends, and it's fun to take a few minutes to explore. There are numerous squeezes and caves, but beware, these are often havens for wild animals. There are developed trails that lead to other areas of Pigeon Mountain, so keep an eye out for the trail blazes for the return trip to the car (an ugly sort of pinkish orange)

For those of you that go geocaching there is a geocache at the following coordinates. Here are the coordinates for the geocache.

**N 34° 38.902 W 085° 23.546**

**Trail Length:** 2.0 miles (RT)

**Location:** [Walker](#) County

**Type of trail:** In and out

**Rating:** Easy

## Nature Nugget



### Fall Follow Up

Fall is rich with possibilities for Outdoor Education. Children will bring in pretty leaves, nuts and other things they have picked up in various locations. A hike with each child equipped with a paper bag for the "treasures" they find will off supplies for a number of activities. Some of these activities are designed more for the younger Pathfinders, have the older Pathfinders help lead out with these activities.

1. Select several things that the Pathfinders have found and put these in a paper bag. The child can reach in without looking and select an item, describe it, and tell where he thinks that it was found.
2. Cocklebur bugs can be made from cockleburs with dried grasses for legs.
3. Any feathers can be used for painting. They make very interesting brushes.
4. Berries and walnuts can supply dye for material. Soak the berries in water until the water becomes colored. Watch the material become colored as it is dipped into the water.
5. Acorn people can be made by painting faces on acorns with magic markers. Maybe the children will have their own ideas on how to make the bodies.
6. Leaf prints can be made several ways. The easiest way is to place a piece of paper over the leaf and color on it so the outline of the leaf comes through. If this is done outside, the concrete or blacktop supplies and interesting background. Another way to print is to attach the leaf with rubber cement to a wood block or linoleum. Cover the leaf lightly with paint and print.
7. Dried arrangements need three weeds of different sizes and clay. The children can arrange their seeds in the clay base any way at all. A milkweed pod or acorns can cover the base.
8. Fall time brings pumpkins to carve and perhaps a trip to a pumpkin field so the children can see how they grow.
9. Have the children put the leaves they bring into different piles, each pile of the same kind.
10. For a fast change of scenery, collect some leaves. Give each child a leaf and have him find another one like it.
11. Children could also find a leaf and a seed, and match them with the trees where them.

12. Be sure to show the children the difference between a fruit and a seed. The fruit is around the seed.
13. For a weather experience have the children lie down and look at the clouds. Look for pictures in the clouds. Notice how they move across the sky. Do they always stay the same shape? Perhaps they could draw some of the shapes they see.
14. On a hike notice:
  - a. A stump to see if the tree was cut down or fell down.
  - b. Trees used as homes for birds or animals.
  - c. Little trees and learn the name of the seedling
  - d. A squirrel planting a nut. Mark it to see if the nut comes up in the spring or if the squirrel remembered it.
  - e. Colonies of bugs or ants
  - f. Signs of animals getting ready for winter

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## Camp Cooking



### Dutch Oven Cooking

Cast iron Dutch ovens, if properly cared for, will last for many generations. Constant and proper Dutch oven care beginning from the day the oven is purchased will keep it in service for many years. All quality ovens are shipped with a protective coating that must be removed prior to seasoning. Removing the protective coating requires a good scrubbing with a little soap, some hot water, steel wool, and a little elbow grease. **This is the only time you will ever use soap on your Dutch oven.** Once the oven has been cleaned, it should be rinsed well, and then towel dried and allowed to air dry.

You can use your kitchen oven to season a Dutch oven but just a word of warning; **you will smoke up your house if you season your Dutch ovens indoors.** You can also use an outdoor gas barbecue in a well-ventilated area. Preheat your barbecue or kitchen oven to 350 - 375°. After your Dutch oven is dry, place it on the center rack with the lid ajar. Allow it to warm slowly so it is just barely too hot to handle with bare hands. This preheating does two things; it drives any remaining moisture out of the metal and opens the pores of the metal.

Now, using a paper towel or a clean 100% cotton rag, apply a thin layer of vegetable shortening. Make sure the oil covers every inch of the oven, inside and out and replace it on the center rack, this time upside down with the lid resting on top of the legs. This will keep oil from pooling in the bottom of the oven. Bake the oven for about an hour or so at 350 - 375°. This baking hardens the

oil into a protective coating over the metal. The oven is now ready for use.

This seasoning procedure only needs to be done once, unless rust forms or the coating is damaged in storage or use. This baked on coating will darken and eventually turn black with age. This darkening is a sign of a well-kept oven and of its use. The seasoning's purpose is two fold, first and most important, it forms a barrier between moisture in the air and the surface of the metal. This effectively prevents the metal from rusting. The second purpose is to provide a nonstick coating on the inside of the oven. When properly maintained, this coating is as nonstick as most of the commercially applied coatings.

**Note:** Avoid cooking anything with a high acid content such as tomatoes, or a lot of sugar such as cobblers for the first 2 or 3 times after seasoning your oven. The acid and sugars can break down the protective covering before it has a chance to harden properly.



### Big Piney Stew

Serves 4-6 people

6 red potatoes quartered	1 lb. green beans
1 red onion slices	½ cup flour
Water	2 T. oregano
1 T. salt	4 cloves of garlic dices
1 lb. carrots cut into 2-3" pieces	2-11 oz. cans of tomato juice
	¼ cup olive oil

- Add tomato juice, green beans, carrots, potatoes, and onion to a 6 qt. Dutch oven.
- Top with salt and pepper
- Add enough water to cover contents
- For a 6 qt. Dutch oven, place 9 coals on the bottom and 15 coals on the top.
- Allow to cook for 1-1 ½ hours or until vegetables are tender.
- In a cup, mix the flour with hot liquid from the oven until the flour has dissolved.
- Pour mixture in the oven and stir. If you desire a thicker stew, add more flour mixture.

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*"The trouble with the future is that it usually arrives before we're ready for it."*

- Arnold H. Glasow

## Computer Connection

As many of you already know the computer and Internet can be a great resource for Pathfinder leaders. During leadership convention Sandra and David Holt presented a workshop on Resource Materials. During this presentation they included a list of Computer Resources for Pathfinders. Here's part of the list that they had.

<http://www.gccsda.com/departments/pathfinders/index.html>  
[www.state.tn.us/environment](http://www.state.tn.us/environment)  
<http://scoutcamp.org/databse/index.html>  
<http://bsacamps.com>  
[www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org)  
[www.PathfindersRUs.com](http://www.PathfindersRUs.com)  
[www.pathfinderpins.com](http://www.pathfinderpins.com)  
[www.camporee.org](http://www.camporee.org)  
[www.adventsource.org](http://www.adventsource.org)  
1-800-328-0525  
<http://www.plusline.org/>  
1-800-732-7587  
[www.adventistyouthministries.org](http://www.adventistyouthministries.org)

## Geocaching

**The Coords are Off 23 Feet!  
No wonder I can't find that film can!**

By Rick Angelin, aka **AB4N**  
Reprinted with permission

When I first started geocaching, it wasn't long before I had the desire to hide my first cache. I chose a spot I thought was interesting and few people, even those local to the area, knew about. I stocked an ammo can with inexpensive, but tradable, items, and then placed it where it was not likely to be discovered by muggles.

I took several coordinate readings at the spot, and quickly noticed that each reading was slightly different. So, I backed off and approached the spot from different directions, and took note of the various coordinate sets. I then averaged what I deemed the best numbers and used them when submitting the cache for approval.

Those who have hidden caches know that it is fun and interesting to read the logs as they arrive in your email inbox. But, it wasn't too long before I got the occasional note that wasn't so thrilling. "The coordinates are off by 23 feet," read one log. A log for another cache that I placed along a riverbank read, "The coordinates put me out in the river, I wasn't prepared for a swim."

If you have hunted for more than one cache, you have probably had a similar experience where, when you finally found the cache, your GPS receiver was showing that it was several feet away; maybe dozens of feet. The

aim of this article is to help the reader better understand the nature of GPS signals, and why experiences like these happen. Hopefully, this knowledge will enable you to be better prepared when hunting and hiding caches.

### GPS Signals

GPS satellites orbit above the earth approximately 12,000 miles. The satellite transmitter power is 50 watts or less! These signals are then received by your GPS receiver (GPSr) which calculates your location by "triangulation". Compare the signal strength of these satellite signals to your local radio station which may be 20 miles or less from your location and broadcasting at 100,000 watts!

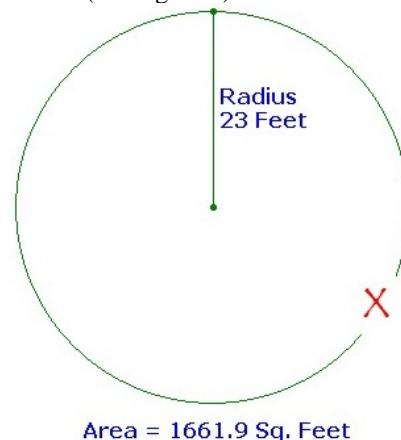
This is why GPS receivers need line of sight reception, and obstructions such as hills, trees, rocks, buildings, etc. make reception more difficult. If your GPSr is WAAS enabled, and you are receiving the WAAS signals, your GPSr will be able to calculate your location more precisely.

Satellite signals will bounce off solid objects like buildings and rocks. The satellites and your GPSr do not know objects like these are present; your GPSr is expecting a straight line of sight signal from the satellite. If you are in a city with buildings around and asphalt or concrete under your feet, or if you are in mountains surrounded by rocks and trees, imagine what your GPSr is having to do in order to calculate your location with all those signals bouncing around!

### GPS Receivers

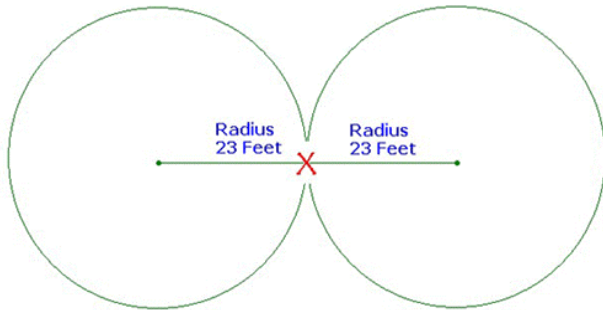
As technology has improved, modern GPS receivers are more capable of deciphering the signals and providing coordinates that are relatively accurate. However, the less ideal the situation that you're in, the greater the error will be for the coordinates that your GPSr indicates. Modern consumer grade GPS units are accurate to about ten feet under ideal circumstances.

Most GPS receivers have the capability to display the estimated error. This number is a radius from the actual location of the coordinates which could be anywhere inside that circle (See figure 1).



In this example, the GPSr points us to the spot in the center of the circle as the location of the coordinates, but indicates an estimated error of 23 feet. The actual coordinates can be anywhere in this circle, so in this example, the red X indicates where they are. The search area is 1661.9 square feet, roughly the area of a small house.

Now, consider that the person who placed the cache may have been standing somewhere outside this circle, but within 23 feet of the red X (see figure 2), presuming their estimated error is also 23 feet.



The circle on the left represents the area that your GPSr indicates as a search area, and the circle on the right represents the area for the GPSr of the person who hid the cache. The circle on the right might be positioned anywhere around the other circle, potentially extending the radius to 46 feet, a search area of 6647.6 square feet, or roughly the area of two large houses!

Of course, this example uses the worst case scenario for a 23 foot estimated error on the GPS signals, but serves to show how the error of two different GPSr will increase the area that will need to be searched. How many hiding places might there be in any given 6000 square feet area?

**Coordinates**

Coordinates are shown in a variety of formats. The same spot on a map might be indicated as:

- DEG° MIN.MM
- DEG° MIN.MMM
- DEG° MIN' SEC"
- DEG.DDDDD

[UTM](#)

In addition to the various coordinate formats are various datum. It is not within the scope of this article to elaborate on these various formats and datum. Suffice it to say that WGS84 is the datum commonly used in geocaching, and DEG° MM.MMM the format for the coordinates.

To put these numbers into perspective, let us use the following set of coordinates for example: N35° 12.345 W085° 45.678

How far off would we be if the least significant number of the longitude were off by one? For example: N35° 12.346 W085° 45.678

Answer: 6.08 feet

A single number difference in the latitude coordinate is equivalent to approximately 5 feet. A single number difference in the longitude coordinate is equivalent to approximately 6 feet. If the latitude coordinate were off by .002 and the longitude off by .003 the error in the coordinate set would be 20.78 feet. The following chart illustrates the distance of error in feet if the coordinates are off from .001 to .009

From this chart, you can see how a small difference in the numbers can make a big difference in search area. If you ever have a chance, hold two GPS receivers side by side and see if you get the same numbers. Often you won't; this is due to the terrain in conjunction with the various makes and models of receivers. GPS units are radios, and the quality and technology used make a difference in how you see the coordinates.

**In Conclusion** Hopefully, you have learned that caches will sometimes be located several feet, even dozens of feet, from where your GPSr points you. Experience will often be necessary to find that elusive cache. Of course, a few geocachers like to fool those of us who might think we know what we are looking for and where to find it ;-)

When looking for a cache, or when hiding one, the best method is to approach the target area from several different directions if possible. From these approaches, the likely hiding area can be more accurately identified. You may also need to stand still and let the GPSr average the signals for a while. Often this averaging will change the initial coordinate reading by 20 to 70 or more feet. This being the case, it is especially important that, when hiding a cache, several readings be taken by using the multiple path approach method in conjunction with letting each reading average for a period of time. With a little care, you can minimize the logs that read, "The coords are off 23 feet!"

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